

AMENDMENT B
(37 C.F.R. 1.111)

IN THE CLAIMS:

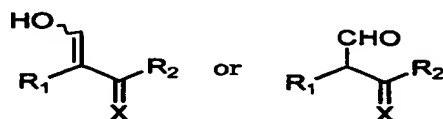
Please amend claims 1 and 5 in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121. A marked-up version of the amended claims is attached herein on separate sheets

CLAIMS

(Deleted material is struck-through and added material is underlined)

1. (Currently Amended) A process to produce compounds represented by a formula

(II);



formula (II)

wherein

R₁ represents hydrogen, halogeno, alkyl optionally substituted by alkoxy, alkylthio or halogen, alkoxy optionally substituted by halogen or aryl, a group having an alicyclic structure, a group represented by R₃S(O)_q, a group represented by R₄R₅N, a group represented by R₆C(=O), nitrile, nitro, a group represented by R₇C(=NR₈), aryl or aryloxy optionally substituted by alkoxy, halogen or alkyl which may be substituted by halogen, phenoxy or heteroaryloxy which may be substituted by haloalkyl, alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, amino, nitrile, alkylthio, alkylsulfonyl or alkylsulfinyl, or aralkyl optionally substituted by halogen,

R₂ represents alkyl optionally substituted by alkoxy, alkylthio or halogen, alkoxy optionally substituted by halogen or aryl, a group having an alicyclic structure, optionally substituted amino, aryl ~~optionally~~ optionally substituted by alkoxy, halogen or alkyl which may be substituted by halogen, phenoxy or heteroaryloxy which may be substituted by haloalkyl, alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, amino, nitrile, alkylthio, alkylsulfonyl or alkylsulfinyl, optionally substituted heterocyclic or heteroaryl having a 5 to 7 membered mono cyclic or 9 to 11 membered fused ring containing 1 to 3 nitrogen or oxygen, or aralkyl optionally substituted by halogen,

R₃, R₄ and R₅ each independently represents alkyl optionally substituted by alkoxy, alkylthio or halogen, aryl optionally substituted by alkoxy, halogen or alkyl which may be substituted by

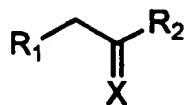
B' halogen, phenoxy or heteroaryloxy which may be substituted by haloalkyl, alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, amino, nitrile, alkylthio, alkylsulfonyl or alkylsulfinyl, optionally substituted heterocyclic or heteroaryl having a 5 to 7 membered mono cyclic or 9 to 11 membered fused ring containing 1 to 3 nitrogen or oxygen, or aralkyl optionally substituted by halogen,

R₆ and R₇ each independently represents alkyl optionally substituted by alkoxy, alkylthio or halogen, alkoxy optionally substituted by halogen or aryl, a group having an alicyclic structure, optionally substituted amino, aryl optionally substituted by alkoxy, halogen or alkyl which may be substituted by halogen, phenoxy or heteroaryloxy which may be substituted by haloalkyl, alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, amino, nitrile, alkylthio, alkylsulfonyl or alkylsulfinyl, optionally substituted heterocyclic or heteroaryl having a 5 to 7 membered mono cyclic or 9 to 11 membered fused ring containing 1 to 3 nitrogen or oxygen, or aralkyl optionally substituted by halogen,

R₈ represents alkyl optionally substituted by alkoxy, alkylthio or halogen, alkoxy optionally substituted by halogen or aryl, nitrile, nitro, aryl optionally substituted by alkoxy, halogen or alkyl which may be substituted by halogen, phenoxy or heteroaryloxy which may be substituted by haloalkyl, alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, amino, nitrile, alkylthio, alkylsulfonyl or alkylsulfinyl, optionally substituted heterocyclic or heteroaryl having a 5 to 7 membered mono cyclic or 9 to 11 membered fused ring containing 1 to 3 nitrogen or oxygen, or aralkyl optionally substituted by halogen,

q represents 0, 1 or 2, and R₉ and R₁₀ each independently represents hydrogen, lower alkyl or aryl optionally substituted by alkoxy, halogen or alkyl which may be substituted by halogen, phenoxy or heteroaryloxy which may be substituted by haloalkyl, alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, amino, nitrile, alkylthio, alkylsulfonyl or alkylsulfinyl, and R₁ and R₂ each represents a group which may bond

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to jointly form a ring, and X represents oxygen or a group represented by a formula of NR_9R_{10} , characterized in that the compound is subjected to a reaction with a methylene compound represented by a formula (I);

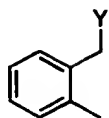


formula (I)

wherein R₁, R₂ and X are as defined above, with either a formic acid ester or an orthoformic acid ester in the presence of a Lewis acid and a base.

2. (Original) The production process according to claim 1, wherein the base is a tertiary amine.

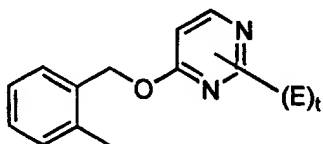
3. (Previously Presented) The production process according to claim 1, wherein the group represented by R_1 in the formula (I) is a group represented by the following formula;



wherein Y represents a group to be eliminated when it is reacted with a nucleophilic reagent, optionally substituted phenoxy or optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, and the group represented by R_2 is a group represented by a formula of OR_{11} , wherein R_{11} represents lower alkyl.

4. (Previously Presented) The production process according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the formula (I) is methyl 2-((2-isopropoxy-6-trifluoromethylpyrimidine-4-yl)oxymethyl) phenylacetate.

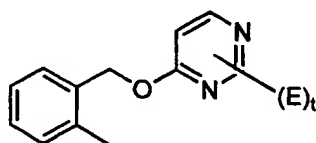
5. (Currently Amended) Compound represented the formula (I), wherein the group represented by R_1 is a group represented by the following formula;



wherein E represents C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} haloalkyl, C_{1-8} alkoxy, C_{1-6} haloalkoxy, optionally substituted amino, a group represented by a formula of $R_{26}S(O)_p$, wherein R_{26} represents alkyl or aryl and p represents 0, 1 or 2, aralkyl ~~optionally~~ optionally substituted by halogen, aryloxy optionally substituted by alkoxy, halogen or alkyl which may be substituted by halogen, phenoxy or heteroaryloxy which may be substituted by haloalkyl, alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, amino, nitrile,

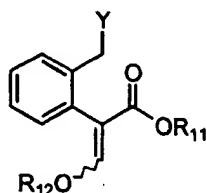
alkylthio, alkylsulfonyl or alkylsulfinyl, optionally substituted heterocyclic or heteroaryl having a 5 to 7 membered mono cyclic or 9 to 11 membered fused ring containing 1 to 3 nitrogen or oxygen, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, a group having an alicyclic structure, nitrile, nitro, alkoxycarbonyl, formyl or carboxyl, t represents 0, 1, 2 or 3, provided E each represents a same or different group when t is 2 or more integer.

6. (Previously Presented) Compounds represented by the formula (II), wherein the group represented by R_1 is a group represented by the following formula;



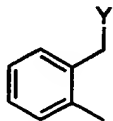
wherein E and t are as defined above.

7. (Withdrawn) A process for producing acrylic acid derivatives represented by a general formula (III);



general formula (III)

wherein Y and R₁₁ are as defined above, characterized in that the compound represented by the general formula (I), wherein R₁ represents a group represented by the following formula;

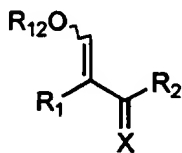


wherein Y is as defined above, R₂ is a group represented by a formula of OR₁₁, wherein R₁₁ is as defined above, and X represents oxygen, is formylated by using either a formic acid ester or an orthoformic acid ester in the presence of a Lewis acid and a base and then converted to the alkoxymethylene form.

8. (Withdrawn) The process for producing acrylic acid derivatives according to claim 7, wherein the base is a tertiary amine.

9. (Withdrawn) The process for producing acrylic acid derivatives according to claim 7, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (I) is methyl 2-[(2-isopropoxy-6-trifluoromethylpyrimidine-4-yl)oxymethyl]phenylacetate and the compound represented by the general formula (III) is 3-methoxy-2-[2-{(2-isopropoxy-6-trifluoromethylpyrimidine-4-yl)oxymethyl}phenyl]acrylic methyl.

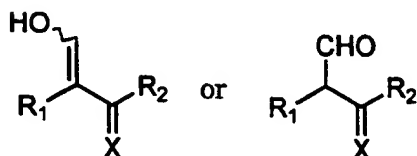
10. (Withdrawn) A process for producing compounds represented by a general



formula (IV);

General formula (IV)

wherein R_1 , R_2 and R_{12} are as defined above, characterized in that the compounds are produced by reacting a formyl form represented by a general formula (II);

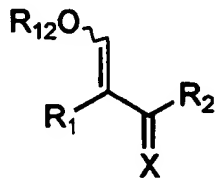


General formula (II)

wherein R_1 , R_2 and X are as defined above, with an alcohol represented by a formula of $R_{12}\text{OH}$,

wherein R_{12} is as defined above, in the presence of an acid catalyst.

11. (Withdrawn) A process for producing compounds represented by a general

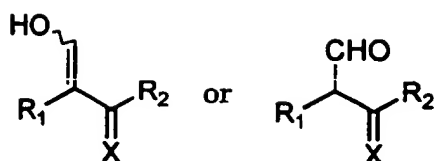


formula (IV);

general formula (IV)

wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_{12} and X are as defined above, characterized in

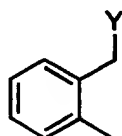
that a formyl form represented by a general formula (II);



General formula (II)

wherein R_1 , R_2 and X are as defined above, is reacted with an alcohol represented by a formula of R_{12}OH , wherein R_{12} is as defined above, and an orthoformic acid ester represented by a formula of $\text{R}_{13}\text{C}(\text{OR}_{12})_3$, wherein R_{12} is as defined above and R_{13} represents hydrogen, lower alkyl, cycloalkyl, haloalkyl or aralkyl, in the presence of an acid catalyst.

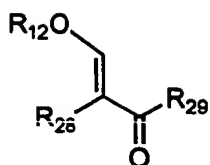
12. (Withdrawn) The production process according to claim 9 and claim 10, wherein the group represented by R_1 in the compound represented by the general formula (II) is a group represented by the following formula;



wherein Y is as defined above, and the group represented by a R_2 in the general formula (II) is a group represented by a formula of OR_{11} , wherein R_{11} is as defined above.

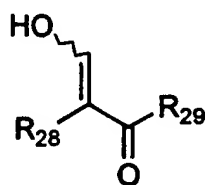
13. (Withdrawn) The production process according to claim 10 and claim 11, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (II) is 3-hydroxy-2-[2-{(2-isopropoxy-6-trifluoromethyl)pyrimidine-4yl)oxymethyl}phenyl]acrylic methyl.

14. (Withdrawn) A process for producing compounds represented by a general formula (VI-1);



General formula (VI-1)

wherein R₂₈ represents optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted hydrocarbon containing an alicyclic structure, optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted heterocyclic group, R₂₉ represents C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, amino, a group represented by a formula of NHr₁, wherein r₁ represents C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy or optionally substituted phenyl, a group represented by a formula of Nr₂r₃, wherein r₂ and r₃ each independently represents C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy or optionally substituted phenyl, optionally substituted hydrocarbon containing an alicyclic structure, optionally substituted phenyl or optionally substituted heterocyclic group, and R₁₂ is as defined above, containing a step to O-alkylate a compound represented by a general formula (V);

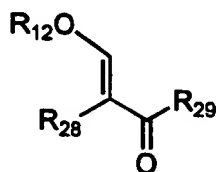


General formula (V)

wherein R₂₈ and R₂₉ are as defined above, characterized in that the step to O-alkylate the compound represented by the general formula (V) contains a step to apply an alkylating agent to the compound represented by the general formula (V) in a bilayer mixed-solvent system consisting of an organic solvent and water in the presence of a phase-transfer catalyst and any of

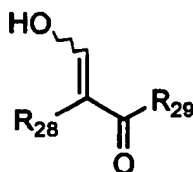
B1
an alkali metal hydroxide excluding the lithium salt, an alkali metal carbonate excluding the lithium salt, an alkaline earth metal hydroxide and an alkaline earth metal carbonate while maintaining the concentration of the base in the aqueous solution at 10 wt% or lower.

15. (Withdrawn) A process for producing compounds represented by a general formula (VI-1);



General formula (VI-1)

wherein R₂₈, R₂₉ and R₁₂ are as defined above, containing a step to O-alkylate a compound represented by a general formula (V);



General formula (V)

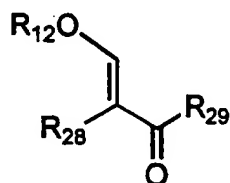
wherein R₂₈ and R₂₉ are as defined above, characterized in that the step to O-alkylate the compound represented by the general formula (V) contains a step to simultaneously feed dropwise an aqueous solution of any of an alkali metal hydroxide excluding the lithium salt, an alkali metal carbonate excluding the lithium salt, an alkaline earth metal hydroxide and an alkaline earth metal carbonate, and an organic solvent solution of the compound represented by

B' the general formula (V) into a bilayer mixed-solvent system consisting of an organic solvent containing an alkylating agent and a phase-transfer catalyst.

16. (Withdrawn) The process for producing compounds represented by the general formula (VI-1) according to claim 15, wherein the step to O-alkylate the compound represented by the general formula (V) is to O-alkylate a compound represented by the general formula (V) while maintaining the concentration of the base in the aqueous layer at 10 wt% or lower.

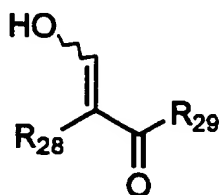
17. (Withdrawn) The process for producing compounds represented by the general formula (VI-1) according to claim 14 and claim 15, characterized in that the step to O-alkylate a compound represented by the general formula (V) is to O-alkylate a compound represented by the general formula (V) while maintaining the concentration of the base in the aqueous layer at 6 wt% or lower.

18. (Withdrawn) A process for producing compounds represented by a general formula (VI-1);



General formula (VI-1)

wherein R₂₈, R₂₉ and R₁₂ are as defined above, containing a step to O-alkylate a compound represented by a general formula (V);



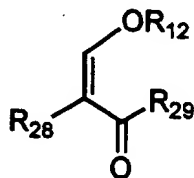
B' General formula (V)

wherein R_{28} and R_{29} are as defined above, characterized in that the step to O-alkylate a compound represented by the general formula (V) contains a step to feed dropwise a solution of either the alkali metal salt or the alkaline earth metal salt excluding the lithium salt of the compound represented by the general formula (V) into a bilayer mixed-solvent system consisting of an organic solvent solution, which contains an alkylating agent and a phase-transfer catalyst, and water.

19. (Withdrawn) The process for producing compounds represented by the general formula (VI-1) according to claim 18, characterized in that the step to O-alkylate a compound represented by the general formula (V) is a step to O-alkylate a compound represented by the general formula (V) while maintaining the concentration of the alkali metal salt or the alkaline earth metal salt excluding the lithium salt of the compound represented by the general formula (V) at 10 wt% or lower.

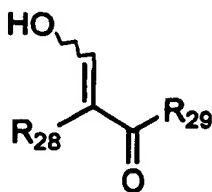
20. (Withdrawn) The process for producing compounds represented by the general formula (VI-1) according to any of claim 14 and claim 15, characterized in that either sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide is used as the alkali metal hydroxide.

21. (Withdrawn) A process for producing compounds represented by a general formula (VI-2);



General formula (VI-2)

B' wherein R₂₈, R₂₉ and R₁₂ are as defined above, containing a step to O-alkylate a compound represented by a general formula (V);



General formula (V)

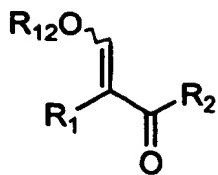
wherein R₂₈ and R₂₉ are as defined above, characterized in that the step to O-alkylate a compound represented by the general formula (V) contains a step to apply an alkylating agent to the compound represented by the general formula (V) in a bilayer mixed-solvent system consisting of an organic solvent and water in the presence of a phase-transfer catalyst and either lithium hydroxide or lithium carbonate.

22. (Withdrawn) The process for producing compounds represented by the general formula (VI-2) according to claim 21, characterized in that the step to O-alkylate a compound represented by the general formula (V) is a step to O-alkylate the compound represented by the general formula (V) while maintaining the concentration of either the lithium hydroxide or the lithium carbonate in the aqueous layer at 5 wt% or higher.

23. (Withdrawn) The process for producing compounds represented by the general formula (VI-1) according to any of claims 14, 15, 17 and 21, wherein a quaternary ammonium salt is used as the phase-transfer catalyst.

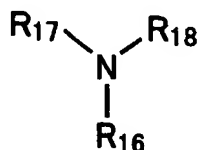
24. (Withdrawn) The process for producing compounds represented by the general formula (VI-1) according to any of claims 14, 15, 17 and 21, wherein a quaternary ammonium hydroxide is used as the phase-transfer catalyst.

25. (Withdrawn) A process for producing compounds represented by a general formula (XII);



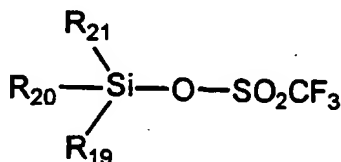
General formula (XII)

wherein R₁, R₂ and R₁₂ are as defined above, characterized in that the compound represented by a general formula (XII) is produced by reacting a tertiary amine compound represented by a general formula (VIII);



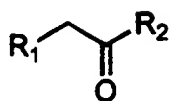
General formula (VIII)

wherein R₁₆, R₁₇ and R₁₈ may be same or different and represents alkyl, aryl or aralkyl, and an organic silica compound represented by a general formula (IX);



General formula (IX)

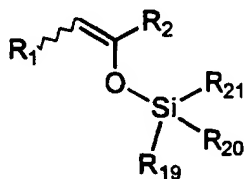
wherein R_{19} , R_{20} and R_{21} may be same or different and represents alkyl, aryl or aralkyl with a



compound represented by a general formula (VII);

General formula (VII)

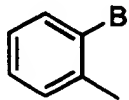
wherein R_1 and R_2 are as defined above, and then reacting an orthoformic acid ester compound represented by a general formula of $(XI)CH(OCR_{12})_3$, wherein R_{12} is as defined above, with a silylenol ether represented by a general formula (X);



General formula (X)

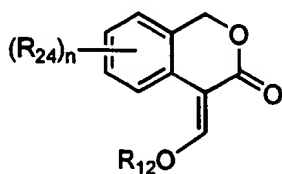
wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_{19} , R_{20} and R_{21} are as defined above, in the presence of a Lewis acid.

26. (Withdrawn) The production process according to claim 25, wherein the group represented by R_1 in the compound represented by the general formula (VII) is a group represented by the following formula;



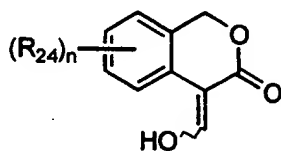
B' wherein B represents hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, haloalkyl, optionally substituted arylsulfonyloxyalkyl or optionally substituted lower alkylsulfonyloxyalkyl, and the group represented by R_2 is a group represented by a formula of OR_{23} , wherein R_{23} represents lower alkyl, and B and R_{23} are a group which may bond to jointly form a ring.

27. (Withdrawn) A process for producing α -alkoxymethylenecarbonyl compounds represented by a general formula (XV);



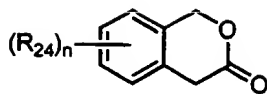
General formula (XV)

wherein R_{24} represents nitro, cyano, halogeno, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} haloalkyl, or C_{1-6} alkoxy carbonyl, R_{12} is as defined above and n represents 0 or an integer of 1 to 4, and each of R_{24} may be same or different when n is 2 or more integer, containing a step obtain an α -hydroxymethylenecarbonyl compound represented by a general formula (XIV);



General formula (XIV)

wherein R_{24} and n are as defined above, by formylating an isochromanone compound represented by a general formula (XIII);

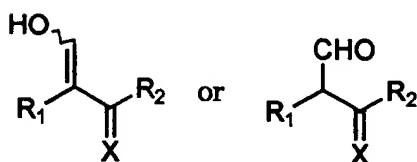


General formula (XIII)

wherein R_{24} and n are as defined above, and a step to O-alkylate a compound represented by the general formula (XIV) in a bilayer mixed-solvent system consisting of an organic solvent and water in the presence of a phase-transfer catalyst and a base, without isolating the compound represented by the general formula (XIV).

28. (Withdrawn) The process for producing compounds represented by the general formula (XV) according to claim 27, characterized in that the step to formylate the isochromanone compound represented by the general formula (XIII) is a step to formylate the compound represented by the general formula (XIII) by using an formic acid ester.

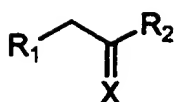
29. (Withdrawn) An after-treatment process in a step to produce compounds



represented by a general formula (II);

General formula (II)

wherein R_1 , R_2 and X are as defined above, by reacting a methylene compound represented by a general formula (I);



General formula (I)

wherein R_1 , R_2 and X are as defined above, with either an formic acid ester or an orthoformic acid ester in the presence of a Lewis acid and a base, characterized in that the after-treatment process contains a step to add water following to an addition of C_{1-4} organic acid into the reacted solution to improve the separating property of the solution.

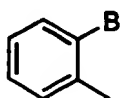
30. (Withdrawn) The after-treatment process according to claim 29 characterized by using the C_{1-4} organic acid in an amount of 2.5 times mole or more of the the Lewis acid to be used.

31. (Withdrawn) The after-treatment process according to claim 29, wherein the C_{1-4} organic acid is acetic acid.

32. (Withdrawn) The after-treatment process according to claim 29, wherein the Lewis acid is titanium tetrachloride.

33. (Withdrawn) The after-treatment process according to claim 29, wherein the base is triethylamine.

34. (Withdrawn) The after-treatment process according to claim 29, wherein the group represented by R_1 in the compound represented by the general formula (I) is a group represented by the following formula;



B' wherein B is as defined above, and the group represented by R_2 is a group represented by a formula of OR_{23} , wherein R_{23} is as defined above, and each of B and R_{23} are a group which may bond to jointly form a ring.
